


Suicide Myths & The Elderly

American Association of Suicidology

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- ◆ **Depression among the elderly cannot be treated.**
 - ◆ **Depression among the elderly is a normal consequence of aging and associated problems.**
 - ◆ **Most completed suicides are terminally ill.**
 - ◆ **Elders who complete suicide do not have close family members.**
 - ◆ **Only elderly persons who live alone are at risk for suicide.**
 - ◆ **Suicide and suicidal behavior are normal responses to stresses experienced by most people.**
 - ◆ **There is nothing that can be done to stop an elderly suicide.**
 - ◆ **Most suicide elders will self-refer to obtain mental health care.**
 - ◆ **Suicidal elderly do not exhibit warning signs of their suicidal ideation or intent.**
 - ◆ **Adverse living conditions are not significant risk factors in elderly suicide.**